

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided in the present application. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 are now present in the application. Claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 11 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14-24 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 7, 9, 11 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Drawings

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has accepted the formal drawings.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified priority document. However, Applicants note that the Examiner has not acknowledged receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents (the Examiner should have checked box 12(a) on the PTOL-326 Form.) The complete certified copy of the priority documents was submitted to the U.S. Patent Office on February 16, 2006. Therefore, clarification is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 16, 2006 and May 16, 2008, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 forms filed therewith.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final, and has withdrawn claims 3, 8, 12 and 14-24 from further consideration. As the Examiner will note, claims 3, 8, 12 and 14-24

have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to claims 3, 8, 12 and 14-24 at a later date if so desired.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 4-6 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wohlfarth et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,484,117 (hereafter "Wohlfarth"). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gray et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,204,679 (hereafter "Gray") in view of Wohlfarth. Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Wohlfarth in view of Gray. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejections is set forth in the Office Action, and is not repeated herein.

Without conceding to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to timely advance the prosecution of the application, as the Examiner will note, independent claims 1, 6 and 10 have been canceled and independent claims 9 and 13 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claims 2 and 7, respectively, which renders these rejections moot.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 2, 7 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application.

As set forth above, objected-to claims 2, 7 and 11 have been rewritten into independent form, respectively, and should therefore be allowed. Also, claims 4 and 5 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 2, and are therefore allowable based on their dependence from claim 2 which is believed to be allowable.

With regard to independent claims 9 and 13, the limitations of original claims 2 and 7 have been respectively added into independent claims 9 and 13, and therefore independent claims 9 and 13 should be in condition for allowance.

Based on the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 earnestly is solicited.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

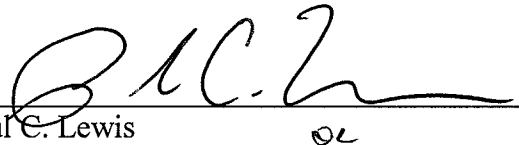
Application No. 10/568,623
Amendment dated May 21, 2009
Reply to Office Action of January 21, 2009

Docket No.: 5417-0128PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: **May 21, 2009**

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Paul C. Lewis
Registration No.: 43,368
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant